

REMARKS--Claims

The new claims overcome examiner's objections in view of Koch and Dorsey for the following reasons:

Although Koch does show a relatively similar invention, there is one important element missing: Koch's invention does not provide for any foldable or collapsible flaps or sides which allow for easy, flat and unobtrusive storage, an important feature when one wants to provide for an extension which is removable in a practical fashion by being stowable in a convenient location. Ranges are quite wide, from 32 inches onward and so is the hood, therefore a hood extension has to be as wide and as such becomes quite cumbersome to stow. By making it foldable, it is easy to stow it in an unused space such as the spacing between a range and kitchen cabinetry. Therefore, the use of soft, pliable, curtain like material becomes more than just a design choice and becomes critical in providing an obvious advantage to the invention. Therefore it does have a patentable weight. Also the use of a peripheral flap made out of a rigid material having a front and two lateral sides and split at the corners between said front and said lateral sides to allow for folding is also critical for the same reasons as the soft pliable material.

The foldable aspect as taught by Dorsey is not so much a folding as a means for stowing away the flap since flipping it totally eliminates its usefulness, which is akin to removing the hood extension altogether but without removing it and stowing it away elsewhere. Indeed, in the claim Dorsey specifies that the deflecting means has a pivot end for movement between a stored position and an in use position. Because of its specific application to range having an overhanging microwave or other such appliance, along with an integrated hood, the use of such a stowable flap was considered practical for that specific arrangement only and that specific use makes the invention unusable and unuseful to the more common standard range with overhead hood. Because of its specific application it cannot be considered or even suggested that the flap of Dorsey be combined with the hood extension of Koch. If it would have been obvious to Koch to include the practical aspect of foldable perimeter to allow for storage, surely it would have been implemented since it was doable at the time Koch's invention was made. Koch does not appear to be concerned with easy removal or storage and therefore a hood extension which offers such an advantage becomes worthy of a patent.

Although applicant understands that the use of magnets cannot be claimed as such, it has to be nonetheless included in the claims since it has to be part of the claims in order to disclose a workable invention.

Requests For Constructive Assistance

The undersigned has made a diligent effort to amend the claims of this application so that they define unobvious structure because it produces new and unexpected results. If for any reasons the claims of this application are not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03(d) in order that this application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very Respectfully,


Gilles Boulanger

Applicant pro se